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The author takes the opportunity of correcting Huxley's hasty generalization respecting the absence of basipterygoids in *Procellariidae*—an error which, however, had been already exposed.* Although these processes are absent in *Diomedea* and rudimentary in “*Thalassidroma*,” they are well developed in other genera; and the fact is, that basipterygoids are highly characteristic of the *Procellariidae*.—ELLIOTT COUES.

GUIDE TO THE STUDY OF INSECTS.†—A third and revised edition of this work has appeared with a few changes and additions of considerable importance. The author calls attention to the change in his views as to the number of segments in the head of six-footed insects; there being four instead of seven. A brief account of the recent discovery of Parthenogenesis in the pupa of a *Chironomus* is given; and also of wax-secreting glands lately found in wax-producing insects, *i. e.*, the bees, aphides and bark lice (*Coccidæ*). Moreover a correct figure of the caterpillar and chrysalis of *Melitæa Harrisii*, takes the place of the incorrect representation in the first two editions, while a short notice of the worm-like mites, *Linguatulina*, is inserted.

The Appendix consists of illustrated notices of the early stages of certain ichneumon parasites; of the embryonal membranes of insects; of the development of the louse: the mode of formation of the wings of insects; of *Paolia*, a remarkable fossil carboniferous insect and of abdominal sense organs of certain insects, while sketches of Schiödt's new classification of the Hemiptera, and Thorell's arrangement of the spiders are presented. Two plates are added, illustrating injurious and beneficial insects. Two other steel plates, one of lice, the other of Thysanura are added, and several new species of insects referred to.

THE DESMIDS.‡ Microscopists will welcome this beautiful memoir on the desmids of Sweden. It will be invaluable to American observers, as there is so much similarity between the

* By T. HALE STREETS. Proc. Phila. Acad., 1870, 85.

† Guide to the Study of Insects, and a Treatise on those injurious and beneficial to Crops: for the use of Colleges, Farm-Schools, and Agriculturists. By A. S. Packard, Jr., M.D. With 15 plates and 670 woodcuts. Third edition. Salem, 1872. 8vo. pp. 715. Price reduced to \$5.00.

‡ De Desmidiaceis, quæ in Suecia inventæ sunt. Observationes criticæ. Auctore P. M. Lundell. Cum tabulis V, pp. 100. Nova Acta of the Royal Society of Sciences of Upsala, 4to, 1871.

desmid floras of the two countries. It is written entirely in Latin. Five excellent plates illustrate the paper.

BOTANY.

LEMNA POLYRRHIZA.—While botanizing last week on the Platte river in Nebraska, I found, near Fremont, large quantities of *Lemna polyrrhiza*, and upon close inspection to my great joy found many specimens in bloom. As this is rarely found in bloom, it may perhaps be deemed worthy of record. I secured specimens which I shall be glad to distribute. I may as well mention also that in the same trip I found *Euphorbia marquiata* in great abundance in western and northwestern Iowa, though Prof. Gray puts it as far west as the “plains of Kansas and Nebraska.”—C. E. BESSEY, *Iowa State Agricultural Coll.*

NEW BOTANICAL WORKS.—A new part of Bentham and Hooker's “Genera Plantarum” is in the printer's hands, as we learn from Trimen's “Journal of Botany,” and is expected to be out by the end of October. It will comprise Rubiacæ, Compositæ, and the intervening orders.

Mr. M. C. Cook's new journal “Grevillea,” devoted to Cryptogamic Botany and its literature, contains much that will interest American botanists. The August number continues Mr. C. A. Peck's “New York Fungi,” and announces that a series of papers on North American Fungi, by Rev. J. M. Berkeley will be begun in the September number.

We have received the first number of the “Transactions of the Imperial Botanic Garden at St. Petersburg,” an octavo of 164 pages, printed partly in Russian and partly in Latin.

ZOOLOGY.

TORNARIA, THE YOUNG STAGE OF BALANOGLOSSUS.—The development of Tornaria has at last been solved. As is well known Müller, Krohn, Fitz Müller and myself have considered it a starfish embryo. The analogy between a Brachiolaria and Tornaria seems complete and no one questioned the position of the latter till Metznikoff in 1870 was fortunate enough to raise Tornaria to a later phase of development—to his astonishment it changed into an annelid. Of course, in view of the affinities (first sug-